



**Giving Opportunities
for
The Michigan Historic Preservation Network**

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network
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Executive Director: Nancy Finegood

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Thank you for considering a gift to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN). We welcome your interest!

The MHPN was established in 1981, incorporated in 1989, and recognized as a non-profit organization in 1990. Its mission is to create an awareness of the value of Michigan's rich cultural heritage and architectural history, encourage the preservation and stewardship of historic properties, support efforts which recognize the contribution these properties make to the individuality and economic vitality of Michigan's communities, and serve the citizens of Michigan as they undertake to restore and use and maintain their historic properties.

We welcome your gift in support of the work defined by this mission, and ask that you look through the giving opportunities listed below to see if an activity interests you and warrants your support. The Network is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your gift is deductible in accordance with federal law and regulation; you receive no goods or services in exchange. Every gift received is recognized in the Annual Report, as well as in others ways specified below.

Choosing the Designation of Your Gift:

The MHPN currently has ten areas in which you may indicate your gift should be used. You may indicate how you would like your gift distributed to one, or more than one, of the following designations. Designations and amounts can be noted on your pledge form.

Annual Statewide Preservation Conference –

The first Annual Statewide Preservation Conference took place in 1981, constituting the organizational meeting of the MHPN in the year it was founded. The conference has grown to be the largest gathering each year of Michigan preservationists. A benefit of being a donor is that you get to choose to what component of the conference you would like your name assigned. To accommodate a changing array of educational, social, celebration, and networking activities at each year's conference, you will be asked by conference organizers to choose a designation from that year's giving opportunities list. More than 15,000 conference brochures are distributed each year and include recognition of our contributors. The brochure's information, if not its entire text, is picked up on the MHPN website and on the websites and listservs of our partners. The conference is an excellent means by which your support can be recognized broadly around Michigan.

Annual Fall Benefit –

The first Fall Benefit was held in 1995 and since then has evolved into a gala evening held each year at a location of architectural interest and excellence. A benefit of being a donor is that you get to choose to what component of the

Benefit you would like your name assigned. To accommodate a changing array of activities at each Benefit, you will be asked by benefit organizers to choose a designation from that year's giving opportunities list. More than 5,000 benefit invitations are distributed each year and include recognition of the event's donors; website and listserv coverage by the MHPN and our partners is extensive. The Benefit provides an excellent means of recognizing your support.

Partners for Sacred Places in Michigan –

As a donor, you are invited to consider supporting the MHPN's New Dollars/New Partners program. The MHPN is collaborating with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Lilly Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and many others on this Partners program to help Michigan's religious congregations preserve and maintain their historic houses of worship. Your gift can support anything from training to hands-on experiences for participants.

A. Phillip Randolph Career and Technical Center Program -

Based at Historic Fort Wayne, the Randolph Center Program provides Detroit area high school students hands-on training in traditional building techniques important in the conservation of historic properties. The Program offers skills that are in demand as developers as well as individual property owners seek to restore and reuse the historic architecture that makes Michigan's older urban and suburban areas unique, economically viable, and marketable. As a donor you can provide underwriting for the program, pay skilled instructors, provide work supplies, or offer scholarships that allow the students to participate in programs that complement their vocational training. Other such programs are getting established in Michigan. If the concept interests you, ask about them as you look at this giving opportunity.

Advocacy and Outreach –

The MHPN hired its first Field Representative in 2006 and, in 2008, added a second field position. Both are co-funded with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with the original representative focused on preservation activities in Southeast Michigan, and the more recently hired professional focused on Greater Michigan. Both are tremendous assets to the MHPN. From working one-on-one with communities facing preservation challenges, to staffing regional offices and handling questions, to testifying at public hearings, to producing a constant stream of written communications – i.e. press releases, newsletter articles, web content, award nominations and scripts – both Field Representatives strengthen preservation in Michigan. Your financial support will be designated to keep their advocacy and outreach available. In the future, it may help support additional Field Representatives.

Revolving Fund -

The MHPN Revolving Fund is a new 2010 program designed to provide much-needed dollars to small projects. Simply put, a revolving fund is seeded with dollars, disperses those dollars for carefully defined uses such as the rehabilitation of historic properties, and then has those dollars returned after projects are complete, ideally with sufficient interest to allow the fund to keep up with inflation. The beauty is that the terms of financing provided by revolving funds are generous, meant more to foster success of its projects than to fulfill some prescribed rate of growth. Your gift to the Revolving Fund will assure that it becomes a successful means by which small preservation projects in Michigan can be assisted.

Endowment Support –

The establishment of the first endowment fund in 1991 marked a turning point in the development of the MHPN. Having the fund made the clear statement that after uninterrupted service since 1981, the MHPN was taking steps to assure its own future with a dependable source of funding that was under its control and invested wisely. As a donor, you can support the MHPN's endowment fundraising, the interest from which may now be used to fund anything from operations, to scholarships, to programming.

Annual Year-End Gift Appeal –

The MHPN carried out its first Annual Year-End Gift Appeal in 1991 and has continued the tradition since then. The dollars received are like holiday presents, allowing the Network to close out the old calendar year and begin the new in a solid financial position.

Special Activities and Projects –

The MHPN maintains a list of changing giving opportunities, one of which may appeal to you. It might be a one-time gift needed to hire a person who archives our records and transfers them to our designated repository at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library. It might be a donation to cover a recurring expense to have a full audit of the MHPN's financial condition so we are able to approach corporations and foundations for grants. It may be a contribution to address the significant expense associated with preparing a statewide analysis of the economic impact of historic preservation, or the smaller fees associated with getting our website regularly updated or an issue of our hardcopy newsletter printed and mailed. If you can see from these examples or anticipate a need you would like to address, please talk with us.

And not to be forgotten: General Operational Support –

The goal of our earliest fundraising efforts in the 1990s was to call upon those closest to the organization to provide support to assure its ongoing operational health. While giving to operations is little celebrated – there is not a round of applause when a new piece of software is purchased or the electric bill is paid – those who are close to a not-for-profit well know it is hard to be welcoming or creative when basic needs are left unmet. If you are an operations-friendly donor, we can present you with giving opportunities to keep the phone on for a year... cover the rent for a week... pay for one day of the entire staff's salary, benefits, expenses, and payroll taxes. Please do not overlook the possibilities of giving to operations!

In closing...

We welcome your support. If you have questions about the kinds of assets you can use for making a gift, please refer to the Network's "Ways of Giving" guide and confer with the fundraising staff by contacting the Network's office:

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Checks and other monetary instruments should be made payable to the *Michigan Historic Preservation Network* and mailed to the address noted above

All gifts and pledges are acknowledged for your records.

For your convenience, a reminder will be sent on the annual date indicated for a pledge.

All gifts to the Network are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Thank you!